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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 19, 1995)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the Divine Sovereign of this land and Lord of our lives, You have told us in the Scriptures that, "Righteousness exalts a nation" (Prov. 14:34) and "when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice" (Prov. 29:2).

As we begin a new week we reaffirm our commitment to exalt our Nation under You by seeking to be righteous leaders. We know that righteousness is to be right with You. We humbly confess whatever may keep us from being in a right relationship with You, both in our personal lives and in our work. Forgive the idols of our hearts. We also acknowledge that righteousness involves how we treat others. Forgive us when we are insensitive to their needs. How shall we be righteous in our deliberations and decisions without seeking and then doing Your will? Forgive any self-sufficiency that makes it difficult to be accountable to You.

In this bracing moment of a fresh encounter with You, we gratefully accept that it is by faith in You that we are made righteous with You. What You desire most is that we humbly trust You and follow Your guidance in all that we do and say. Lord, bless the women and men of this Senate and empower them to be the righteous leaders America urgently needs in this strategic hour. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Mr. DOLE, is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, leader time has been reserved, and there will be morning business until 12 noon.

At 12 noon we will resume S. 240, the securities litigation bill. There will be debate throughout the afternoon, and votes start at 5:15 today. The first vote is on a Bryan amendment regarding the statute of limitations; second, a Sarbanes amendment concerning proportionate liability; third, a Boxer amendment, which is relevant. I do not have the details on that amendment.

Further votes are expected throughout the evening. We would like to complete action on this bill today or before noon tomorrow morning.

Mr. President, leader time has been reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is that the Senate is now in morning business. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to speak for 20 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in recent weeks we in the Senate have been treated to a political pony show on the floor of the Senate by those who seem to think it is their duty to wake up crabby and then share that mood with

the rest of us. They come to the floor and parade around in political harness day after day complaining mostly about the President's budget or the lack of it. But more generally, they complain about anything they think they can blame on Democrats—spring rains, high winds, new diseases, cultural disorders.

And we have been patient in recent weeks while watching all of this and have been polite enough not to ask those who come to the floor, "Where is the budget?" that is required to be submitted to the Senate by the majority party. We have not asked that question because we have known where their budget is. It is 71 days late, 71 days beyond when the law requires the Congress to have passed a budget. These folks that had a plan for everything in the first 100 days apparently did not have a plan to meet their responsibility to have a budget by April 15. So it is 71 days later, and we are now told that this Thursday the budget will come to the floor of the Senate.

Where has it been? In conference, we are told. In conference with Democrats? No. Conference committees are usually between two parties. But not this one. This is in conference huddling behind closed doors, hatching new ideas about how to give the wealthy another tax cut and how to have the middle-income taxpayers in this country pay for it. Now they have figured it out, and they are going to unveil it here on the floor of the Senate.

So close your eyes just for a moment while I describe it and ask yourself: Is this not a curtain call to a play you have seen before? It is the let-them-eat-cake budget. They bring to the floor a budget that says let us have tax cuts for the very wealthy, let us have spending cuts for the very poor, and let us spend more money for defense and spend it on things that the Secretary

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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